From:	Ken Shulman
To:	McGovern, Marc
Subject:	Re: A proposal for the BDS resolution
Date:	Thursday, April 19, 2018 4:38:04 PM
Attachments:	Ken Shulman CV 2018.docx

Marc,

I'd be happy to help produce a policy draft for you, but if we're going to do this properly I'd much prefer to form a small working group to produce a series of recommendations that are more likely to gain traction and less likely to raise hackles. The issue is as thorny as it is timely; there are so many moving pieces, and so many interest and advocacy groups with well-defined agendas and well-poised activists ready to swoop onto on City Hall on a rumor.

What, for example, should the city's position be versus countries that practice capital punishment? Who should decide whether a country or corporation is in violation of human rights? Are there intermediate steps to take before declaring a boycott or severing a contract? Are we more concerned with regimes that commit violations abroad, or who oppress their own citizens? Is press freedom as important, say, as freedom of movement or rule of law? How can this policy punish oppressive regimes without throttling domestic opponents and dissidents or putting them in danger? Is environmental recklessness a crime against humanity? The list goes on.

I have several people I'd like to invite into the working group--all Cambridge residents, all experienced human rights or legal professionals who also represent key elements of our city's racial, ideological, and socio-economic mix. I think Cambridge has both the opportunity--and the talent--to not only set an even-handed and effective policy here, but also to provide a template for other cities and organizations wrestling with the same dilemma.

If you like this idea, why not invite me in for a chat. I'm attaching my CV just in case.

Thanks again for the contact, ks

On Wed, Apr 18, 2018 at 10:52 AM, McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Mr. Shulman;
>
> MA Against HP has agreed to hold off on filing their petition on the 23rd. They are now looking at the 30th. I believe they have one councilor who is willing to sponsor. I would greatly appreciate it if you would send me a draft of a policy order that you think addresses the larger question of Cambridge doing business with countries that violate human rights it would be great.
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> **From:** Ken Shulman [mailto:krshulman@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7:28 AM
> **To:** McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: A proposal for the BDS resolution

Mr. McGovern,

I am pleased to read of your global approach to human rights, and agree that Cambridge should have a human rights policy consonant with its values. I do believe there are NGOs whose work and judgments are less partial than those of the UN, where nine members of its human rights council are accused of violating human rights. In any case, I renew my offer. If there is space for citizen participation in drafting the city's policy towards nations--or corporations--who systematically violate human rights, I would be honored to participate.

You are aware of course that Mass Against HP is presenting a petition to boycott HP at the Monday 23 April City Council Meeting.

Thank you again for your attention. And I do hope there is a positive outcome to all this noise.

ks

On Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 5:52 PM, McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Mr. Shulman,
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> The information you received is incorrect. I am not planning on voting in favor of a resolution that singles out HP and Israel. This issue has raised a larger question for me and that is: what relationships does the city have with countries that are on the UN's Human Rights Violators list? This can't and shouldn't be just about Israel.
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> **From:** Ken Shulman [mailto:krshulman@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 5:16 PM
> **To:** McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov>
> **Subject:** A proposal for the BDS resolution

Dear Mayor McGovern,

I am attaching a letter proposing an alternative to the HP/BDS resolution the city council will be debating. Thank you for your kind attention, and to your service to Cambridge.

Ken Shulman

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